

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 USIE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01

COME-00 DODE-00 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 SAM-01 OES-06 SP-02

SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 NEA-10 IO-13 EA-07 /127 W
----- 047571

O R 281721Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3398

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

ALL EC CAPITALS 0134

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 21958

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, ENRG, FR, PFOR, EFIN, EEC

SUBJECT: JULY 27 MEETING IN BRUSSELS ON CIEC IMPASSE

REF: PARIS 21731

1. IN MEETING ON JULY 28 FROMENT-MEURICE GAVE MINECON
RUN-DOWN ON MEETING HE HAD ATTENDED IN BRUSSELS ON
JULY 27.

2. MEETING BEGAN WITH THE PARTICIPANTS HAVING AVAILA-
BLE FOR CONSIDERATION THE PROPOSAL WHICH FINANCE
MINISTER FOURCADE HAD MADE AT THE EC FINANCE MINISTERS'
MEETING ON JULY 26 PURSUANT TO WHICH THE EC WOULD
AGREE TO MAINTAIN A POSITIVE APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM
OF ALLEVIATING THE DEBT BURDEN OF THE DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES, LOOKING AT EACH COUNTRY'S DEBT PROBLEMS
ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS WITHIN THE ORIENTATION OF THE
UNCTAD NAIROBI RESOLUTION ON THIS SUBJECT. FROMENT-
MEURICE SAID THAT ON THE WHOLE THIS FRENCH PROPOSAL
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HAD BEEN WELCOME BUT NO FORMAL AGREEMENT HAD BEEN

REACHED AT THE FINANCE MINISTERS' MEETING ON JULY 2"/

3. THE FRENCH PROPOSAL BECAME THE SUBJECT OF EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION AT THE JULY 27 MEETING. IN ADDITION THE CONFZKEES HAD JUST RECEIVED A LETTER FROM THE G-8 CO-CHAIRMAN MACEACHEN SOLICITING EC SUGGESTIONS AND SUPPORT. FROMENT-MEURICE SAID HE ASSUMED THE OTHER G-8 MEMBERS HAD RECEIVED A SIMILAR LETTER.

4. IN THE EARLY PART OF THE DISCUSSION IT SEEMED AGREED THAT THE REAL STICKING POINT HAD TO DO WITH THE DEBT ISSUE AND THAT THE CONCERN ABOUT PROTECTION OF PURCHASING POWER OF THE LDC EXPORT EARNINGS WAS LESS CRITICAL. HE SAID THAT WALLENSTEIN RECOMMENDED THAT THE EC (AND IMPLICITLY THE G-8) SHOULD STICK WITH THE FORMULA WHICH HAD INITIALLY BEEN AGREED TO AND THEREAFTER REJECTED BY THE G-19 AT THE CLOSE OF THE LAST SERIES OF COMMISSION MEETINGS. FROMENT-MEURICE ADDED THAT HE THOUGHT THIS MIGHT BE TOO OPTIMISTIC A VIEW BUT THAT HE SAW NO NEED FOR FURTHER THEOLOGICAL DEBATE OVER THE DIFFERENCE IN MEANING BETWEEN SUCH WORDS AS IMPROVEMENT VERSUS PROTECTION.

5. THE GROUP GAVE SOME CONSIDERATION TO SENDING A MESSAGE TO ALL THE CIEC PARTICIPANTS SOMEWHAT ALONG THE LINES OF THE SORT OF REPRESENTATIONS EARLIER MADE BY THE USG. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A MESSAGE WHICH STRESSED THE POSITIVE ATTITUDE OF THE EC AND THEIR READINESS TO FIND A FORMULA WHICH WOULD PERMIT CONSIDERATION OF THE PROBLEM OF THE ALLEVIATION OF THE LDC DEBT BURDEN. THEY CONCLUDED, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH A MESSAGE SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE SENT BECAUSE IT WOULD NOT REPRESENT A CONCERTED G-8 VIEW AND IT MIGHT TEND TO ADD UNNECESSARY EMPHASIS TO THE IMPORTANCE OF THE DEBT ISSUE.

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USIE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 NEA-10 EA-07 IO-13

/127 W

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O R 281721Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3399

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ALL EC CAPITALS 0135

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 21958

6. INSTEAD IT WAS AGREED THAT THE DUTCH CHAIRMAN WOULD SEND ON BEHALF OF THE EC A LETTER TO THE CANADIAN CIEC CO-CHAIRMAN SAYING IN EFFECT THAT THE EC HAS RESOLVED TO ADOPT A POSITIVE ATTITUDE ON THE QUESTION OF THE ALLEVIATION OF THE DEBT BURDEN OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE NAIROBI RESOLUTION AND WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO FIND AN ADEQUATE ANSWER TO THE VARIOUS PROBLEMS WHICH ARISE. THIS EFFORT WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE DIFFERENT SITUATIONS PREVAILING IN EACH COUNTRY WHERE SOME ARE VERY HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, OTHERS HAVE DIFFERENT SPECIAL FINANCIAL PROBLEMS, AND SOME CLEARLY FALL IN THE MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED CATEGORY. IT WOULD THEREFORE BE NECESSARY TO APPROACH EACH SITUATION WITH FLEXIBILITY. (NOTE: CONFIDENTIAL

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THIS IS A VERY FREE INTERPRETATION OF AN EQUALLY FREE TRANSLATION OF MATERIAL WHICH FROMENT-MEURICE HAD IN HIS FILE, I.E. HE DID NOT HAVE THE DEFINITIVE TEXT THOUGH THIS WAS ESSENTIALLY WHAT WAS AGREED TO GO INTO THE LETTER TO MACEACHEN.)

7. FROMENT-MEURICE SAID THEIR MEETING CONCLUDED ABOUT 9:00 P.M. WITH EVERYONE HOPING THAT THIS LETTER WOULD BE WELCOMED ELSEWHERE AND STUDIED WITH INTEREST. HE SAID HE ASSUMED THE CANADIAN CO-CHAIRMAN WOULD DISTRIBUTE IT TO OTHER MEMBERS OF THE G-8 AND SPECU-

LATED THAT IT COULD BE THE BASIS FOR A DRAFT WORK
PROGRAM. WITH SUPPORT FROM OTHERS, THE G-19 MIGHT
BE INDUCED TO REGARD SOME SUCH FORMULATION AS AN
ADEQUATE BASIS FOR GOING FORWARD WITH THE SEPTEMBER
MEETINGS.
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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